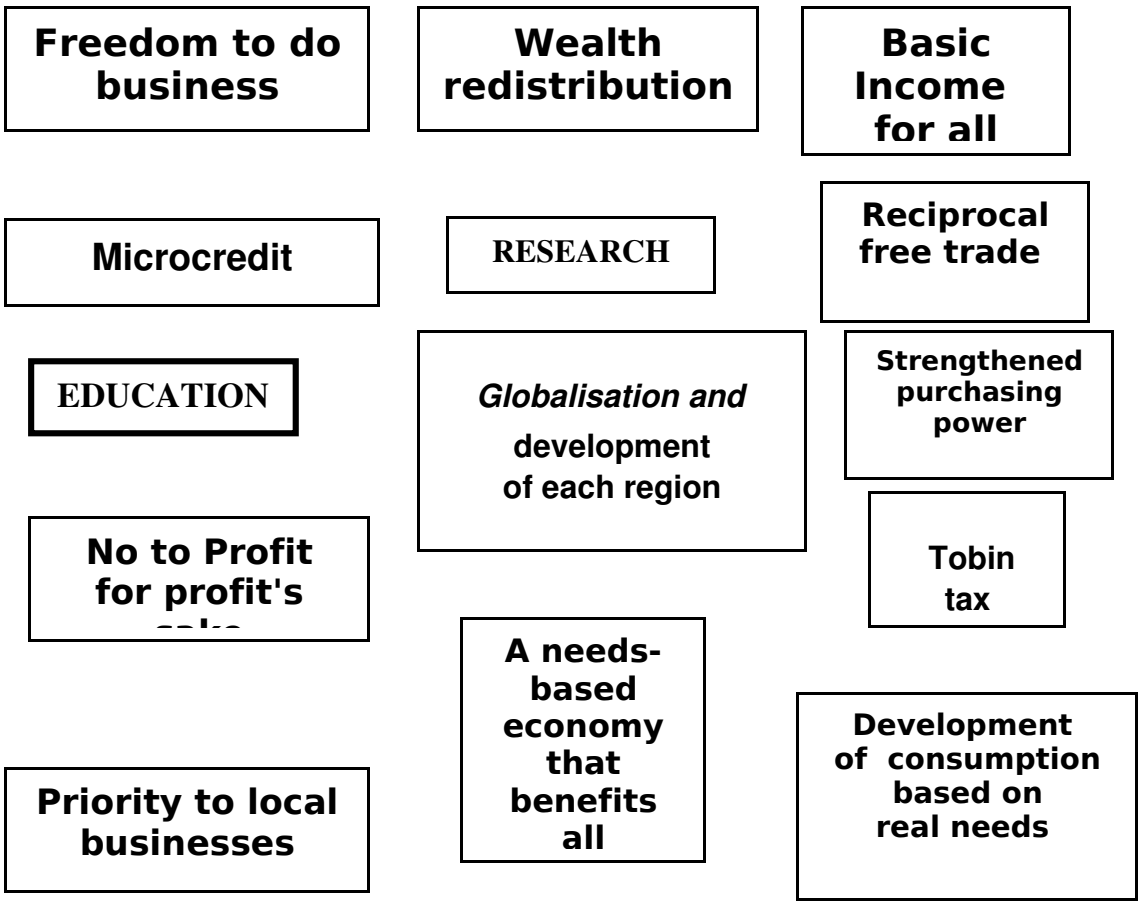
"USER's MANUAL"

For a social Europe,
for developing countries
and for a more humane globalisation



BASIC INCOME IN BRAZIL
(introduced in January 2006)

Martha Suplicy, mayor of Sao Paulo in Brazil since January 2000, has introduced in that city of 17 million inhabitants the Basic Income for the lowly-paid and those without income.

Her ex-husband, Eduardo Matarazzo Suplicy, federal senator for the State of Sao Paulo for the labour party, has been working since 2005 on the project of introducing the Unconditional Basic Income for all Brazilians. He has declared : "The Basic Income is an effective arm against that lack of economic freedom which forces people to accept semi-slavery working conditions or obliges them to go and seek their livings in unfriendly places. It is an effective way of fighting against organised crime (illegal drug-dealing, human trafficking) and of breaking the vicious circle of poverty and illiteracy."

BASIC INCOME IN THE THIRD WORLD

Vivant is persuaded that to introduce the Basic Income in Third World countries would be the best way of spending the budgets devoted to development cooperation. With just 2% of Belgian GNP a Basic Income of €40 could be given to every Nicaraguan. In Nicaragua, a country of about 5,600,000 inhabitants (in 2006), basic products are cheaper and these €40 are the equivalent of about €250 in Belgium. Purchasing power is increased and a local market is created. Those who receive the Basic Income enjoy more autonomy and the space to take their own initiatives.

Manufactured goods imported into these countries could be highly taxed, for they are mostly bought by the well-off, thus contributing to the funding of a Basic Income for every citizen.